

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows:

FIG. 1 has been labeled as "PRIOR ART" in accordance with the examiner's objection.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully disagrees that the invention of claim 1 is obvious and unpatentable over Kolli et al. (US Pub. No. 2004/0019710; hereinafter Kolli).

The examiner has identified Kolli's hard disk drive bay 220 of Fig 2 as corresponding to applicant's recited "connection interface". Comparing FIG. 2 of the present application to FIG. 2 of Kolli, it should be apparent that the connection interface of claim 1 of the present application is capable of connecting with more than one storage device; in contrast, the connection interface of Kolli (Hard Disk Drive Bay 220) is connected to only one storage device. Moreover, Kolli appears to be concerned only in replacing a defective device with a similar replacement device, while applicant's claimed invention contemplates reconfiguration of the affected control circuitry "according to the number and arrangement of the storage devices thereby determined to be currently connected to the I/O control circuit." To that end, in applicant's disclosed embodiment, the interrupt request signal of claim 1 may correspond to a change of connection status between the I/O control circuit and multiple storage devices, and the CPU of claim 1, after receiving the interrupt request signal from the system control circuit and verifying that there has been a change of the connection status, loads corresponding interface setting into the interface control circuit according to the number and arrangement of the storage devices now connected to the I/O control circuit.

Since the connection interface of Kolli is apparently connected with only one storage device, Kolli's interrupt signal presumably corresponds to nothing but an insertion/removal event of the single storage device (paragraph [0015]), which produces a detectable change in current or voltage within the connection interface (hard disk drive bay 220) (paragraph [0016]), and the CPU (controller 130) of Kolli merely isolates (and

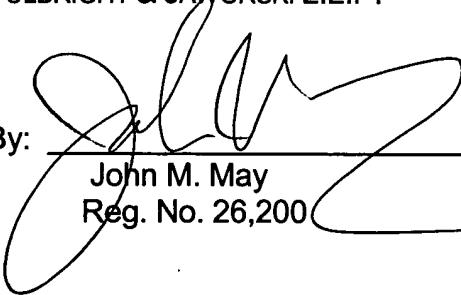
eventually reinstalls) an inoperative drive without taking into consideration of the number and arrangement of any other storage devices.

In conclusion, applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is fundamentally different in structure and function from the teachings of the Kolli patent. The foregoing amendment to claim 1 is merely intended to clarify these key distinctions. In particular, it should now be perfectly clear that applicant's invention is usable with storage system having multiple storage devices connected to the same control circuitry, and in which there may be dynamic changes in the number and arrangement of the devices so connected.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

By:


John M. May
Reg. No. 26,200

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Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.
555 South Flower Street
Forty-First Floor
Los Angeles, California 90071
(213) 892-9200